

REMARKS

Status of claims

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claim 10 is currently being amended.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 10 has been amended to obviate the rejection thereof.

Claims 1-5 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shinozaki. Claims 1-20 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green et al. in view of Nickens and Shinozaki.

With respect to Shinozaki, this patent has a U.S. filing date of June 29, 1999, which is after the U.S. priority date of the present application of January 14, 1999. Consequently, Shinozaki is not prior art to the present application. The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is believed to be obviated in view of the above.

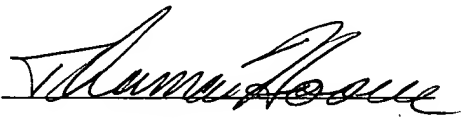
The rejection based on the Green and Nickens is respectfully traversed as these references do not disclose or suggest such a scrubbing system for a semiconductor processing tool.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,
BOWDITCH & DEWEY, LLP

By



Thomas O. Hoover

Date: *December 30, 2003*

Registration No.: 32,470

Direct tel.: (508) 416-2475

Telephone: (508) 879-5700

Facsimile: (508) 929-3073

Bowditch & Dewey, LLP
161 Worcester Road
P.O. Box 9320
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-9320